

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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## IDAHO FARM NUMBERS UNCHANGED

The number of farms and ranches in Idaho in 2003, at 25,000, is unchanged from the number of farms and ranches in the State during 2002. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 11.8 million acres, also remains unchanged from 2002. The average size of farm was 472 acres in 2003.

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms and ranches occurred in all sales categories except the \$250,000 - \$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.

USDA'S definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 census. Since 1974, minor modifications to a farm definition have been made.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507